

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03912 051609Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 PC-01 AID-05

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /084 W

-----114827 051635Z /46

R 051500Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8316

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3912

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT SF RH

SUBJ: BOTHA AND SMITH COMMENT ON LATEST MEETING

REF: PRETORIA 3610

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH SMITH IN SALISBURY, FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA SAID TIME WAS RUNNING OUT BUT THERE WAS STILL REAL POTENTIAL FOR A SETTLEMENT. BOTHA SAID HE WAS SATISFIED THAT IAN SMITH WAS SEEKING A PROPER SOLUTION, AND IN A DOMESTIC CONTEXT, HE APPEARED TO LEND POLITICAL SUPPORT TO SMITH. SMITH, BOTHA REVEALED, WOULD VISIT SOUTH AFRICA BEFORE THE AUG 31 ELECTIONS. SMITH TALKED OF AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND HE PROVIDED A SCENARIO LEADING TO ELECTIONS NEXT MARCH UNDER A NEW
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CONSTITUTION. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER HIS MEETING WITH IAN SMITH ON AUG 4, FONMIN BOTHA WAS QUOTED IN THE SA PRESS AS SAYING THAT TIME IS FAST RUNNING OUT IN RHODESIA, BUT THERE WAS CERTAINLY "REAL POTENTIAL FOR A SETTLEMENT WHICH, IN MY OPINION, WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY THE OVERWHELMING

MAJORITY OF RHODESIANS, BOTH BLACK AND WHITE," THE FONMIN
SIAD SOUTH AFRICA WAS "SATISFIED" THAT MR. SMITH WISHED
TO ACHIEVE SUCH A SOLUTION. "WE HAVE GIVEN CERTAIN
ASSURANCES," HE SIAD, "AS REGARDS MR. SMITH'S INTENTIONS
TO THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN GOVTS, AND TO OTHERS.
NOTHING HAS HAPPENED WHICH DETRACTS FROM THOSE ASSURANCES."

3. BOTHA SAID THAT RHODESIA AND SA HAD STATED THEY WOULD
KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH AND HE PREDICTED FURTHER TOP LEVEL
MEETINGS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. SPECIFICALLY, HE ENVISIONED
A VISIT BY SMITH TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH
HIMSELF AND POSSIBLY THE PRIMIN BEFORE THE END
FO THE MONTH. BEFORE LEAVING SALISBURY, BOTHA WAS REPORTED
AS ENDORSING SMITH AS "THE HEAD OF GOVT IN RHODESIA,
THE ONLY LEADER WE KNOW."

4. MEANWHILE IN SALISBURY SMITH WAS QUOTED BY THE PRESS
AS STATING THAT HE WAS SATISFIED HE HAD THE FULL BACKING
AND TRUST OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVT IN GOING AHEAD
WITH HIS PLANS FOR AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. THE EXPRESSION
"INTERNAL SETTLEMENT" WAS NOT A DIRECT QUOTE IN EITHER
OF THE PRESS REPORTS FROM SALISBURY, ALTHOUGH BOTH
CARRIED A SMILILAR REPORT OF THIS PHRASE. SMITH
INDICATED THAT IN CALLING THE AUG 31 ELECTION, HIS
AIM WAS A NEW CONSTITUTION BY THE END OF THE YEAR AND
ELECTIONS BASED ON IT BY MARCH OF NEXT YEAR.
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5. COMMENT: ONE IMPORTANT PURPOSE OF BOTHA'S TRIP
WAS TO UNDERSCORE SOUTH AFRICA'S SUPPORT FOR SMITH,
A SITUATION WHICH THE RHODESIAN LEADER IS FULLY
EXPLOITING IN HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN. SMITH IS INCREASINGLY
TALKING IN TERMS OF AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. THE SCENARIO
INVOLVING ELECTIONS NEXT MARCH UNDER A NEW CONSTITUTION
SUGGESTS THE COURSE THAT SMITH HAS MAPPED OUT.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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